



New Voices Pittsburgh
WOMEN OF COLOR FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

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Summer & Fall, 2010 Practicum

New Voices Pittsburgh

- A multidisciplinary practicum that focuses on educating women and girls on the importance of reproductive health
- My duty was to be the special projects manager for the organization. I was assigned various jobs pertaining to educating women and girls.
- The ultimate goal was to raise awareness regarding women's rights to reproductive justice with a focus on incarcerated women.

What is New Voices Pittsburgh?

- A groundbreaking organization, using a Reproductive Justice framework to organize and build a local movement with young women of color and allies in Greater Pittsburgh Region
- The organization exists to elevate Human Rights by educating ourselves, families and communities
- The goal is to change our social and economic condition by addressing the multiples issues women of color face and assert new, progressive political voices in the public sphere.





Mission of New Voices Pittsburgh

To connect women of color with the Reproductive Justice Movement, educate communities of color about Human Rights and develop new voices for leadership in Pittsburgh.

The Problem

- Women and young girls are not aware of their rights to reproductive health and often times aren't educated on sexual health
- Women who are incarcerated in Allegheny County do not have access to proper gynecological care or basic rights in some instances and this is inhumane

Special Projects

- Developed a Policymaker Leadership Institute on October 22, 2010
- City officials and policy makers in the Greater Pittsburgh area were invited to listen to community members and community workers explain issues with the Allegheny County Jail



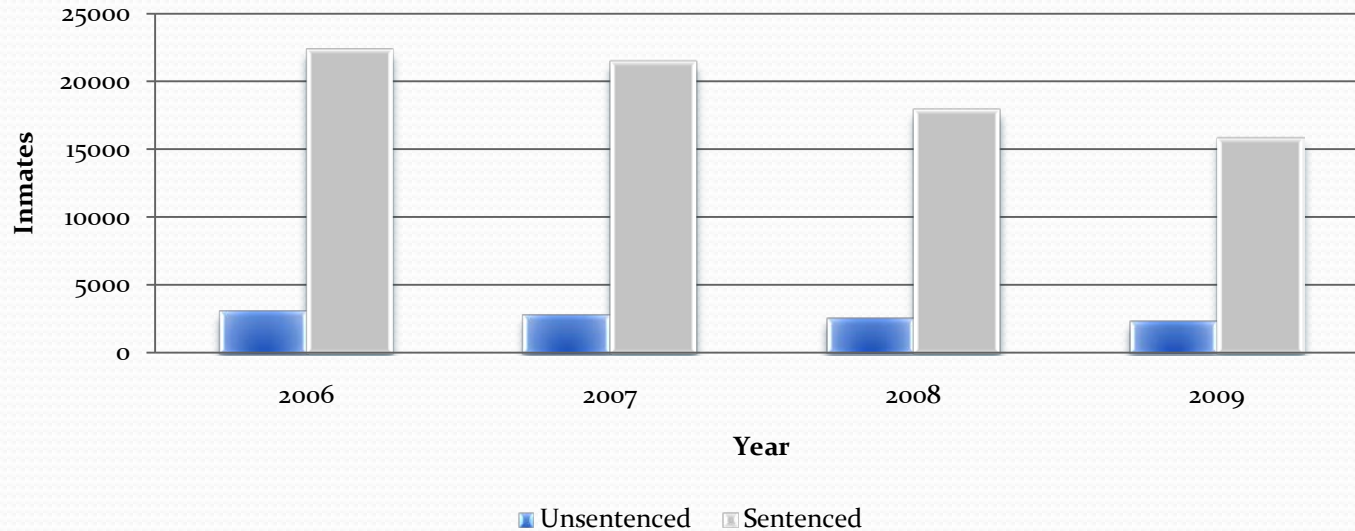
Facts

- As of September 19th, 2010, jail admissions totaled 13, 403 and women accounted for 20%
- Nearly 40% of women are between ages of 20-29
- 55% of women committed where white
- Majority of women committed are in jail for non-violent crimes
- There is a significant impact on children because 61% of women have children who are minors
- Women are shackled during child birth in Allegheny County
- Allegheny County Jail is not conducive to sexual health needs of women

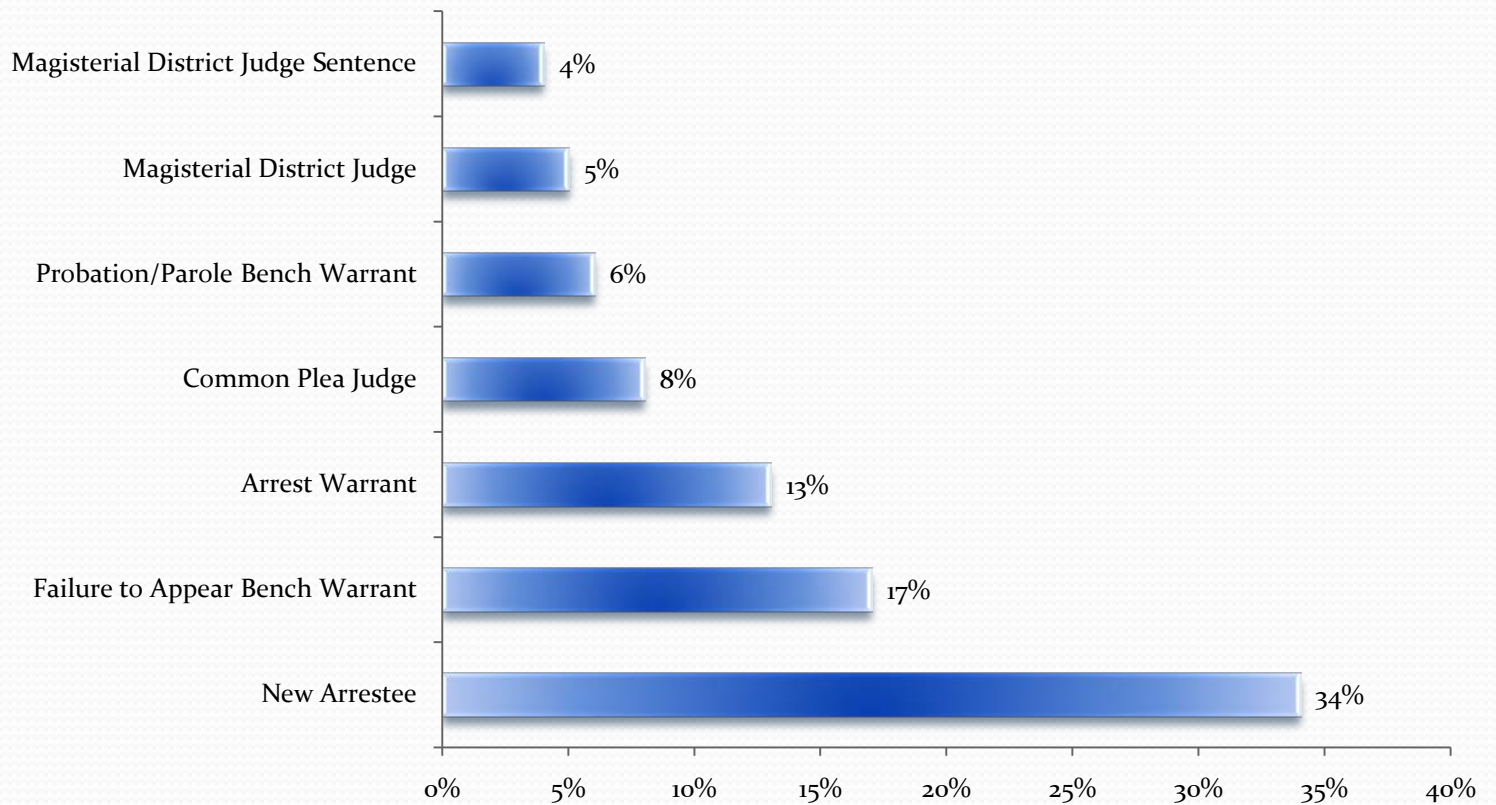
Majority of inmates are un-sentenced:

9% to 10% of female inmates are sentenced*

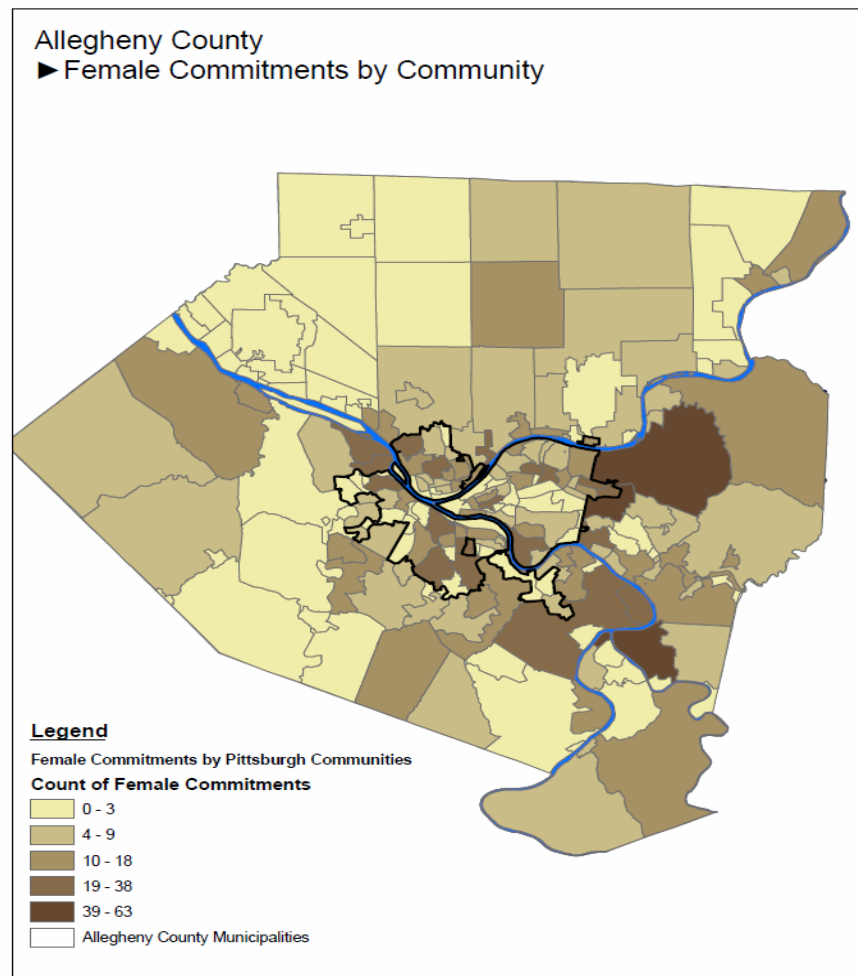
12% to 14% of male inmates are sentenced*



Admission Types



Residency in Allegheny County



Charges

- **762 total charges; average of 3 charges per woman:**
 - **130 charges related to offenses committed against a Person**
 - Criminal Homicide, Aggravated Assault, Robbery, Endangering the Welfare of Children
 - **105 charges related to Burglary/Theft offenses**
 - Burglary, Retail Theft, Theft by Unlawful Taking
 - **94 charges related to Public Order offenses**
 - Disorderly Conduct, Prostitution, Public Drunkenness
 - **81 charges related to Drug offenses**
 - Contraband/Controlled Substance, Possession, Manufacture
 - **80 charges related to Other Property offenses**
 - Criminal Mischief, Defiant Trespass, Forgery, Receiving Stolen Property, Fraud
 - **60 charges related to Non-Compliance offenses**
 - Direct Criminal Contempt, Hold for State/County/Marshal, Vio Probation/Parole
 - **62 charges related to Traffic offenses**
 - DUI, Driving w/o a License, Accidents Involving Death/Injury, Careless Driving
 - **150 charges related to Other offenses**
 - Criminal Attempt, Criminal Conspiracy, Firearms not to be Carried w/o a License, Resisting Arrest, False Id to Law Enforcement, Possess Instruments of Crime w/Intent

Polycymaker Leadership Institute



Summary

- The majority of women in Allegheny County Jail are admitted for non violent crimes
- The Allegheny County Jail was created for male inmates and need to be adjusted for female inmates
- Women are shackled during child birth which violates their basic rights

Recommendations

- County Jails should not be co-ed.
- Women should have access to pre-natal treatment while in jail and should not be shackled during labor
- Children of incarcerated women should have adequate caretakers while their mothers are in jail

Thank You!

- I want to give a special thank you to La'Tasha D. Mayes, Executive Director for New Voices Pittsburgh and Tammy Thomas.
- The information and statistics utilized for this power point presentation was taken from a presentation given by the Warden for Allegheny County Jail at the Policy Maker Leadership Summit